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South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

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NOVEMBER DESIGNATED AS NATIONAL CAREGIVERS MONTH

In 1994, the National Family Caregivers Association launched the first ever celebration of family caregiving declaring National Family Caregivers Week. Recognized by President Clinton when he signed the first proclamation in 1997, NFC Month has been proclaimed by an American President annually ever since. Many states, and dozens of local municipalities have proclaimed November, NFC Month.

More than 65 million family caregivers in this country fulfill a vital role on the care team. No one else is in a better position to ensure continuity of care. Family caregivers are the most familiar with their care recipients' medicine regimen; they are the most knowledgeable about the treatment regimen; and they understand best the dietary and exercise regimen.

National Family Caregivers Month is a time to thank, support, educate and empower family caregivers. It enables all of us to: raise awareness of family caregiver issues, celebrate the efforts of family caregivers and educate family caregivers about self-identification. We must find ways to assist caregivers as they juggle work, family and financial responsibilities.

Let us all find time to pay tribute to those who provide care for their family members, friends, and neighbors in need.

The true strength of the American family finds its roots in an unwavering commitment to care for one another.

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educate. support. empower. advocate.

SD AIR NATIONAL GUARD EARNS GOVERNOR'S SAFETY AWARD

The South Dakota Safety Council has awarded a Governor's Safety Award to the South Dakota Air National Guard for excellence in workplace safety and health.

The South Dakota Air National Guard is one of 41 employers who were recognized at the Governor's Safety Awards luncheon at the Sioux Falls Arena and Convention Center on September 28.

"An effective safety program reduces injuries and costs, maximizes productivity and builds morale," said Cary Swenson, executive director of the South Dakota Safety Council. "Employers like the South Dakota Air National Guard understand that safety is good business, now more than ever."

Since 1993, the annual Governor's Safety Awards have spotlighted South Dakota employers with above average safety records. Participants submit injury information which is compared with state and national data, as well as the entrant's past performance.

Ongoing safety programs and activities are also considered. Winners are recognized at three levels. The South Dakota Air National Guard received an Award of Honor, the highest of the awards, for exceptional accomplishment in reduction of injuries and illnesses in the workplace.

"My top priority is taking care of our Soldiers and Airmen and their Families," stated Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the adjutant general of the SD National Guard. "Our Air National Guard's distinguished safety record demonstrates that they are truly living that priority every day."

The Governor's Safety Awards luncheon was part of the 19th South Dakota Safety & Health Conference, coordinated by the South Dakota Safety Council.

The conference is the largest gathering of workplace safety and health professionals in the region. The South Dakota Safety Council, founded in 1949, is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in South Dakota by preventing unintentional injuries ("accidents").

Earlier this year the South Dakota Air National Guard was also selected as the 2011 recipient of the Air National Guard's William W. Spruance Safety Award. One Spruance trophy is awarded in the nation each year to the Air National Guard Unit which made the most significant contribution to accident prevention.



SFVAHCS VETERANS BENEFITS FAIR

The Sioux Falls VA Health Care System extends an invitation to all veterans, their family members and area residents to the SFVAHC Veterans Benefits Fair and Community Open house and information fair November 1, 2011, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. VA staff will be available to assist with eligibility questions, compensation benefits, a variety of health care services, VA career opportunities, health screenings, as well as provide tours of the medical center.



SDNG COUNTERDRUG MESSAGE INSPIRES TRAVELERS IN RAPID CITY

Soldiers of the Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) team, South Dakota National Guard Counterdrug program, along with other sponsors throughout the Rapid City area, hosted a Red Ribbon Billboard unveiling Thursday, Oct. 6. The billboard, at the west side Family Thrift Express Center parking lot on Sturgis Road, supports the drug awareness Red Ribbon Week, which is the largest, most visible awareness campaign in the United States.

Emily Maltaverne, a fifth-grade student at Zion Lutheran School in Rapid City, won the contest with her illustration of an astronaut flying through space. "I know a lot of kids who look up to astronauts and I know most astronauts are drug free," said Emily, age 10. "I think that drugs mess you up and I want to go far in life. I want to go to the Art Institute of Colorado for culinary arts, and I am proud to be drug free."

Master Sgt. Kristi Palmer, DDR administrator for the South Dakota National Guard, said the billboard contest is just one of many visual reminders showing our commitment to being drug free in Rapid City. "There are red ribbons tied around trees, the president statues downtown and a huge red ribbon tied onto a dinosaur at Dinosaur Park," said Palmer.



SFVAHCS FLU VACCINE SCHEDULE

To safeguard the health of America's veterans, the SFVAHCS urges all veterans to receive flu vaccinations this season. Walk-in clinics for veterans enrolled in VA's health care system will take place beginning next week at the following locations and times.

Only one vaccination is required this year, which will be provided at no charge to veterans who are enrolled for VA health care.

Sioux Falls VA Medical Center

October 7 – 7:00 – 11:00 AM
October 11 – 7:00 AM – 12N
October 14 – 7:00 AM – 11:00 AM
October 17 – 7:00 AM – 12N
October 18 – Noon – 6:00 PM
October 21 – 7:00 AM – 12N
October 26 – 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM
October 27 – Noon – 6:00 PM
November 1 – Noon – 6:00 PM

Aberdeen CBOC, 2301 8TH Ave. NE, Suite 25, Aberdeen, SD, phone: 605-229-3500

October 27 - 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM
November 1 – 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Wagner CBOC, 400 W Hwy 46-50, Wagner, SD, phone: 605-384-2340

November 4 – 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM
November 18 – 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Watertown CBOC, 917 29th St. SE, Watertown, SD, phone: 605-884-2420

October 24 – 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM
November 4 – 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Sioux City CBOC, 1551 Indian Hills Dr. Ste 206, Sioux City, IA, phone: 712-258-4700

October 24 – 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Spirit Lake CBOC, 1310 Lake Street, Spirit Lake, phone: 712-336-6400

October 28 – 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM
November 9 – 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM



VABHHC CPAC TRANSITION

VA Black Hills Health Care is scheduled for CPAC transition on April 30, 2012. As a result of this reorganization, responsibility for insurance verification, revenue utilization review, billing, and accounts receivable will be transferred to the CPAC. Front-end services, such as scheduling, (pre) registration, insurance identification, patient intake, and health information management (HIM) [coding functions] will not be affected by the CPAC reorganization.

The CPAC will have a few employees working locally at VA Black Hills; the Revenue Coordinator, the Revenue Utilization Review Nurse, and 3 Revenue Technicians. These staff are employees of the CPAC but facilitate between the CPAC and the local facility.

Some types of billing such as CHAMPVA and Tricare will remain a local responsibility.

Points of Contact for questions regarding the CPAC transition are Suzanne (Sue) Hill, current Revenue Coordinator, at (605) 720-7190 or Deb Kolda, Business Office Manager, at (605) 720-7154.

HOMELESS VETERAN OUTREACH CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

As part of the VA's drive to end homelessness among Veterans by 2015, the Sioux Falls VA Health Care System launched, this week, an outreach program for homeless Veterans, and those at risk of becoming homeless. The Sioux Falls VA was one of 28 communities across the country to host a kickoff event this month.

This fiscal year, VA expects to spend \$3.4 billion to provide health care to homeless veterans and \$800 million in specialized homeless programs. The latest studies say more than 75,000 veterans are homeless on a typical night and about 135,000 spend at least one night a year in a homeless shelter.

The VA is changing from a program focused upon temporary, shelter-based services, to a program focused on prevention, employment, and permanent housing. Community partners are key components in continuing the momentum to fight homelessness in Sioux Falls and surrounding communities.

Patrick Kelly, SFVAHCS Director, launched the Sioux Falls event, followed by Sioux Falls Mayor Mike Huether who shared a personal story about his father's homelessness. Other presenters were Janet Murphy, VISN 23 Director; Jim Deken, Vice President of Leadership Masters & Regional Director at Executive Development Concepts; and Mary Carstensen, Senior Advisor, Office of the Sec. Of the Dept. of Veterans Affairs. There were also two panel presentations that focused on the VA's six pillar approach to end homelessness and the unique barriers that rural homelessness causes.



FROM JEANS FUND TO TREE FUND



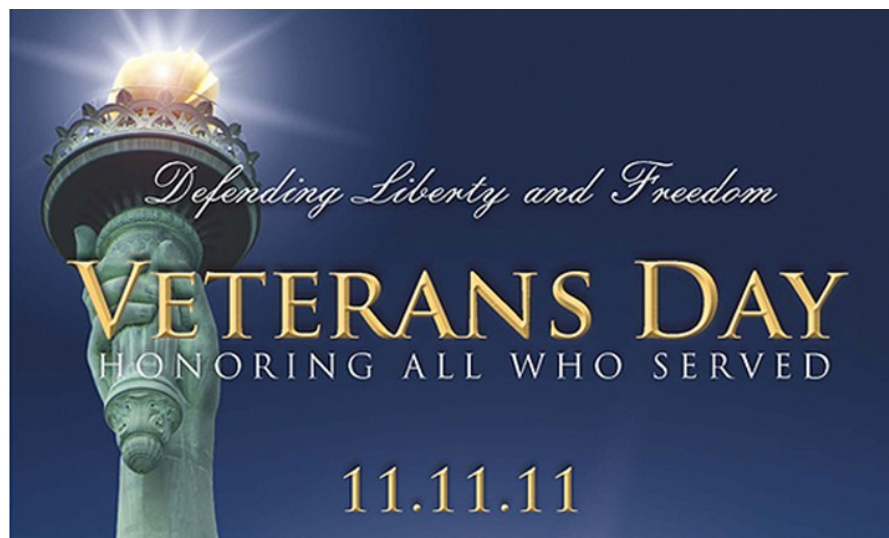
The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs staff donated \$200 from their jeans fund to Pierre's "Tree Fund." Proceeds from the "Tree Fund" will be used to purchase and replant trees in the communities parks and arboretum.

Deputy Secretary Harding made the presentation to Mayor Laurie Gill and Parks Commissioner Jean Goodman at the City Council meeting Tuesday evening.

Department staff who participate in the "jeans day" fundraiser are allowed to wear jeans on Friday by contributing \$1. Periodically, Department staff will select projects for the funds to be con-

tributed. In the past, monies have been used to support the Honor Flight South Dakota program, as well as purchase items for the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home.

Jeans Day is a simple and easy way to raise funds to support programs that assist others in need.



UPCOMING EVENTS

October 14—Women's Veterans Conference—Holiday Inn City Centre—Sioux Falls
October 14-16—VABHHCS Women's Retreat
October 25—SDDVA Fall Mini Conference—Rapid City
October 26—SDDVA Fall Mini Conference—Pierre
October 27—SDDVA Fall Mini Conference—Brookings
November 1—SFVAHCS Veterans Benefits Fair and Community Open House—Sioux Falls
November 11—Grand Opening of Women of War Center
November 11—Veterans Day
November 17—SD Veterans Council Legislator Roundtable—Aberdeen
November 18—SD Veterans Council Legislator Roundtable—Chamberlain
November 19—SD Veterans Council Legislator Roundtable—Piedmont
December 2—SD Veterans Council Legislator Roundtable—Watertown
December 3—SD Veterans Council Legislator Roundtable—Sioux Falls
December 10—National Wreaths Across America Remembrance

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